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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 456

By Trail

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Mr. James L. Bomar, Jr., former Speaker of the Tennessee Senate and the Tennessee House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of one of Tennessee's greatest public servants, Mr. James Bomar, former Speaker of both the Senate and House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, James Bomar was an extraordinary man who devoted his life to improving our great State through his visionary leadership; and

WHEREAS, The son of the late James LaFayette and Aetna Hix Bomar, he was born and raised in the Raus community of Bedford County and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School in 1931; Mr. Bomar was also a graduate of Cumberland University in Lebanon and Cumberland Law School; he was admitted to the bar of the State of Tennessee in 1937; and

WHEREAS, He taught at Castle Heights Military Academy while attending law school, and while on a recruiting trip for the Academy he met his future wife, Edith Dees; and

WHEREAS, Jim and Edith were married in 1940, the same year he began his law practice in Shelbyville. In 1943, he answered the call to public service by being elected to the House of Representatives of the 73rd General Assembly, in which position he ably represented the good people of Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, Jim Bomar further demonstrated his patriotic commitment to the State and Nation he loved so dearly by volunteering for the U.S. Navy during World War II, and upon his return home from assignment at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, he again began practicing law and renewed his interest in politics; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, Mr. Bomar was elected to the State Senate representing the citizens of Bedford, Coffee and Moore Counties, and was again elected to the House of Representatives in 1948. Although he did not seek re-election in 1951, he was encouraged to run two years later; he was re-elected in 1953 and served five additional terms in the House before serving a final term in the Senate from 1963-1964; and

WHEREAS, He was elected Speaker of the House during each of his last five terms in that Body and was elected Speaker of the Senate and Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee for his final term in that distinguished Body; and

WHEREAS, As Speaker of the House of Representatives, he signed more than 10,000 bills and other legislation, and his term as Lieutenant Governor earned him the title of "Tennessee's Outstanding Legislator"; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Bomar joined the Rotary Club of Shelbyville in 1942 and as club president he organized the District's first Interact Club. He also contributed his time and exemplary talents to the organization as Governor, Third Vice-President and as Chairman of the 1977 Council of Legislation; and

WHEREAS, As Rotary International president, his conviction that Rotary should be more active in solving International problems led him to initiate a series of "Conferences of Goodwill" in global trouble spots. In October 1979, Jim launched what would become the PolioPlus program, the largest single project launched by Rotary, at Makati, Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Jim Bomar was the founder and served as Chairman for 12 years of the Tennessee Legislative Council, and was a member of the American and Tennessee Bar Associations, the International Society of Barristers, the Federal Energy Bar Association, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, and the

American Legion. He also served on the Board of Trust for Cumberland University, and the Cumberland Law School Advisory Board at Samford University; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Bomar was an exemplary public servant and dedicated professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow Tennesseans in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, He was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church in Shelbyville, which he served faithfully for many years as Ruling Elder; and

WHEREAS, Jim Bomar was also deeply devoted to his family, including his beloved wife, Edith Dees Bomar, and their sons, James LaFayette Bomar III and Lewis Wayne Bomar, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bomar leaves behind an outstanding legacy of integrity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Speaker James L. Bomar, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his numerous contributions to the lives of all Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Bomar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.